



EMPOWERING

Empowering a community of learners who will change the world!

FALL 2024

THE OFFICIAL WORTHINGTON CITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR



STAY CONNECTED



DEAR WORTHINGTON SCHOOL COMMUNITY,

As we begin the new school year, I'm reminded of the privilege I have to speak to our entire team and help set the tone for the months ahead. This year, my message focuses on the theme **"The Difficult, Beautiful Work."**

Our work in public education is filled with challenges—complexities, demands, and unexpected moments. But it's also deeply rewarding. The most meaningful things in life are often difficult, and that's what makes them so valuable. When we face these challenges and give our best, we make a real difference in the lives of our students and their families.

As we move forward, let's embrace both the difficulties and the beauty of our work. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to our students and community. I'm excited for another year of growth and learning together.

Warm regards,

DR. TRENT BOWERS • Superintendent



HIGH SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Progress is underway at Thomas Worthington High School (TWHS) and Worthington Kilbourne High School (WKHS). Each project is unique, but both represent significant investments in the future of our students and the broader Worthington community.

THOMAS WORTHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL: A BLEND OF OLD AND NEW

The new classroom wing at Thomas Worthington is on schedule and will be a great addition for students. To allow time for its completion, the school year was delayed until September 3rd.

This year, TWHS will feature a mix of old and new as phase two of renovations continues, focusing on the student commons, library, auditorium, and arts spaces. While construction continues, we look forward to a facility that will better support our students' diverse needs.



10.1.24 5:30-7:30 PM

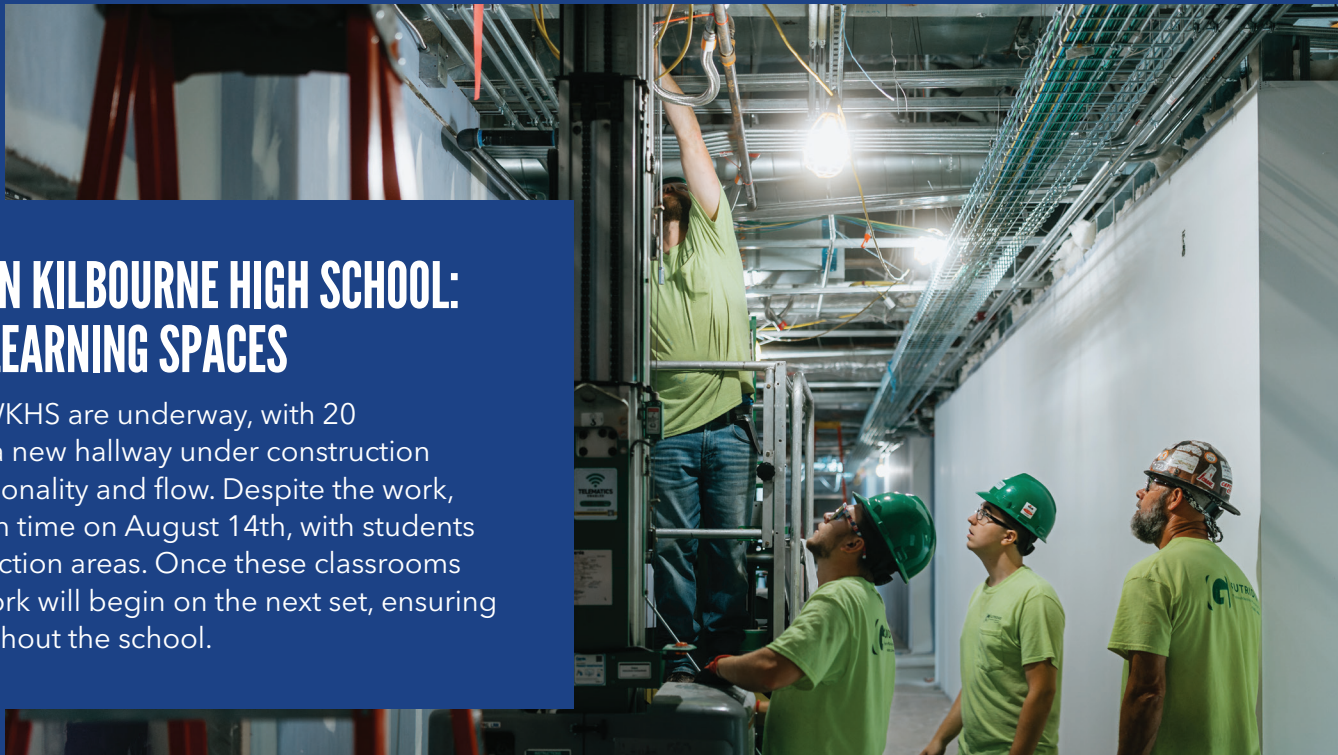
JOIN US

Thomas Worthington High School Open House on October 1st from 5:30-7:30 PM as we unveil the first phase of our exciting updates. Come explore the new spaces and see the progress!



WORTHINGTON KILBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL: ENHANCING LEARNING SPACES

Renovations at WKHS are underway, with 20 classrooms and a new hallway under construction to improve functionality and flow. Despite the work, classes started on time on August 14th, with students avoiding construction areas. Once these classrooms are complete, work will begin on the next set, ensuring upgrades throughout the school.



WORTHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT SUMMER PROJECT UPDATE

This summer, significant improvements were made across various schools and facilities. Here's a quick update on key projects:

- **WEC Roofing** and **Granby Heating/Cooling Controls** were upgraded.
- **Sutter Park** received new classroom heating and cooling systems.
- **Playground Replaced** at Liberty Elementary.
- **Safety Improvements** included new crosswalks and handicap curb cuts at KMS and McCord.
- **Exterior Signs** were replaced at Worthington Estates, Wilson Hill, and Brookside Elementary Schools.
- **McCord Stadium** received new goalposts and updated restrooms.
- **Evening Street Gym Floor** was replaced.
- **Classroom Spaces** at Liberty and Worthington Hills were modified.
- **New Generators** were installed at Granby, Liberty, and Sutter Park.
- **Pedestrian Bridge Replacement** at Worthington Park is in progress.

These projects reflect the district's commitment to enhancing facilities and supporting the community's needs.



NEW FOR 2024-2025: ENHANCING EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Worthington Schools is excited to announce several key initiatives aimed at improving education and supporting our community. These updates focus on enhancing the student experience and addressing the evolving needs of staff and families.

EMBEDDING THE PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER

After collaborating with the community to create the Portrait of a Learner last year, the district is now integrating this vision into classrooms. Teachers are embedding the skills and values outlined in the Portrait to help students apply them in meaningful ways.

STRENGTHENING SPECIAL EDUCATION

Following a special education audit, the district is implementing changes to improve outcomes for students with disabilities and better support staff. While this process will take time, the goal is to create a more inclusive and effective learning environment for all.

REEVALUATING CELL PHONE POLICIES

Worthington Schools is reviewing its cell phone policy in response to new legislation from Governor DeWine. The district is engaging students, parents, and staff through surveys to create a policy that supports student focus and learning while aligning with the law.

ELIMINATION OF CLASSROOM FEES

To ease financial burdens, the Board has voted to eliminate classroom consumable fees starting this year. Fees for extracurriculars, instrument rentals, and parking will remain, but this change will provide meaningful relief for families.

These initiatives reflect the district's commitment to enhancing education and supporting the community in the 2024-2025 school year.



WORTHINGTON CITY SCHOOLS

200 E. Wilson Bridge Rd.
Worthington, OH 43085



Worthington Schools is excited to welcome 50 new teachers, bringing fresh ideas and energy to enrich classrooms and inspire students. We look forward to their contributions as they join our dedicated team.



From student to colleague: Wilson Hill's Todd Smith welcomes Olivia Trueman to the teaching team. Todd had the privilege of teaching Olivia in fourth grade, and now she's beginning her own journey as a first-year teacher in the very same school!

WELCOMING NEW LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATORS TO WORTHINGTON SCHOOLS

Worthington Schools is excited to introduce several leadership changes and new educators to the district. These individuals bring fresh perspectives, experience, and enthusiasm to the community, and Worthington Schools is confident they will positively impact students and staff.

The district is pleased to welcome new principals at three schools:



JOSH ALMANSON

Thomas Worthington High School



TODD KENNAN

Worthingway Middle School



KAYLEE SANTILLE

Wilson Hill Elementary

In addition to new school principals, Worthington Schools has made key leadership changes at the Worthington Education Center:



JEFF MADDOX

Assistant Superintendent



NATHAN KELLENBERGER

Coordinator of Behavior Support and Mental Health

FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are pleased to report that Worthington Schools ended the 2023-2024 school year \$2.7 million under budget, reflecting a 1.5% savings. Due to voter support of the 2022 incremental operating levy, our financial outlook remains strong for the coming years.

As the state budget process begins this winter, we are optimistic that full implementation of the Fair School Funding Formula, with adjustments for inflation, could allow us to maintain our operations beyond 2026 before additional funding is needed.

Phase 1 of the high school construction is nearly complete, with ample contingency funds remaining. We are in a solid position to begin Phase 2 this fall.

We remain committed to responsible financial stewardship, ensuring a stable future for Worthington Schools.

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